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First IMB journeymen class commissioned

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Two years can seem like an eternity, especially for young people recently graduated from college. Often careers are begun, weddings are planned, and momentous decisions are made during this time.

For 82 young adults commissioned July 20 as the first class of journeymen under the recently renamed International Mission Board (IMB), the next two years will be a great time to make a difference for eternity.

The group comes from colleges and universities all across the United States. Some have seminary degrees and some are considering missionary service. Others are unsure of their plans.

They will work as English teachers, language students, youth ministers, evangelists, and church planters, and in a variety of other positions. They all have this in common: a desire to serve God and spread the gospel around the world.

While all of them soon will be apart from their natural environment and making the transition to another culture, many will be serving in unstable and newly opened areas.

Tim Berry of Royal, Ark., decided to forego seminary to serve in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina; he and five others will join six journeymen already working in the nation that, not too long ago, was a war zone.

Twenty-three journeymen will serve in "The Last



SING OUT — Lori Lebo of Mechanicsburg, Pa., sings during a musical presentation at a worship service July 20. Nearly 3,000 young adults have participated in the journeyman program since its inception in 1965. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Frontier," among people groups with little or no access to the gospel. They say they sense the excitement of participating in the first mission work in these areas.

To prepare for their assignments, journeymen spend four weeks at the IMB's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. They attend classes on spiritual formation and aspects of cross-cultural ministry, while learning more about their specific assignment and region. It is an important bonding time as they develop a network of new

friends who can identify with their unique concerns.

"A lot of times, people put missionaries up on a pedestal," said Cherilyn Amick, who will serve in Kobe, Japan. "We're real people, with real struggles."

Nearly 3,000 young adults have participated in the journeyman program since its inception in 1965.

This group contains a set of identical twins: Carter and Clayton Hemphill of Dallas.

Carter, a graduate of Baylor University, will be teaching English as a Second Language in Hakodate, Japan. Clayton, a Samford University alumnus, will use his accounting skills in central Asia.

"It's exciting for both of us to be doing this together," Carter said. "But it's important that we've each come to this decision independently."

Participation in the program has grown recently. The addition of this class increases the number of journeymen on the field to more than 200. In his message, IMB President Jerry Rankin — a Mississippian — expressed the desire to send 1,000 journeymen in the near future.

The times also have changed — many journeymen said they hope to use e-mail to keep in touch with friends and family.

During the service, groups of journeymen demonstrated through music and drama different aspects of the call to missions they have felt. A combined choir expressed their commitment as they sang, "Here I am ... I will go ... If you lead ... I will go with your people in my heart."

Looking back

10 years ago

Harold Morris, former Georgia death row resident and featured speaker for Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, tells the estimated 9,000 young people gathered at the Mississippi Coliseum to "be selective in who you associate with," and let Jesus direct their lives.

20 years ago

Bogue Chitto Church, Lincoln Association, gains "Distinguished Recognition" from the Church Training Department, meaning the church has completed at least 50 achievements, with 20 in advanced work that comprises a healthy, well-rounded program of church training.

50 years ago

The town of Bruce is engaging in a rather unusual type of revival. Instead of having a revival at the Baptist church on one date and on another date at the Methodist church, both churches are holding services simultaneously.

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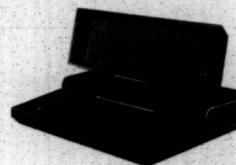
MUSIC

1. Shades of Grace, Bob Carlisle (Provident Distribution)
2. I Surrender All, Carmen (Chordant)
3. God's Property, God's Property (Word)
4. Heavenly Place, Jaci Velasquez (Word)
5. WOW 1997, Various (Chordant)
6. Life, Love and Other Mysteries, Point of Grace (Word)
7. Jesus Freak, DC Talk (Chordant)
8. Signs of Life, Steven Curtis Chapman (Chordant)
9. Caedmons Call, Caedmons Call, (Warner)
10. Love and Mercy, Kathy Troccoli (Brentwood)

VIDEO

1. Larry Boy & the Fib from Outerspace, Veggie Tales (Word)
2. Feelin' at Home, Gaithers (Chordant)
3. Very Veggie Sing-a-long, Veggie Tales (Word)
4. Joy in the Camp, Gaithers (Chordant)
5. Dave and the Gaint Pickle, Veggie Tales (Word)
6. Where's God When I'm Scared?, Veggie Tales (Word)
7. Rack, Shake and Bennie, Veggie Tales (Word)
8. Gatlin Brothers Come Home, Gatlin Brothers (Chordant)
9. Are You My Neighbor?, Veggie Tales (Word)
10. God Wants me to Forgive Them?, Veggie Tales (Word)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Developing some Christian backbone

A pop quiz: Are you sometimes too intimidated to say grace over your lunch in a restaurant when accompanied by co-workers? Do you shy away in embarrassment when a friend makes a public stand for Christ? Have you visited places you shouldn't go or done things you shouldn't do simply because you didn't want to "rock the boat"?

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, you should get some backbone. If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, be assured that you are not alone among American Christians. We could all use a lot more backbone when it comes to speaking up for Christ (present company included).

The timidity with which we practice our Christianity in this free and open society is all the more scandalous in light of the terrible price that other believers around the world are paying for practicing their faith in the simple ways we take for granted.

The August edition of Reader's Digest magazine contains a chilling article by assistant managing editor Ralph Kinney Bennett on the undeclared global war against Christianity — and the disgraceful silence of America's government and Christian community.

In China, 36-year-old Zhang Xiuju was dragged from her home under cover of night. When police returned her brutalized, lifeless corpse, they reported she had died when she jumped from their car.

In Pakistan, Munir Khoker was shot while intervening during the desecration of a Christian cemetery by a Muslim mob. Likewise, the Bangladeshi family of Marzina Begum was mobbed when they declined to participate in the celebration of a Muslim holiday.

"You haven't heard of these people.

They are but drops of water in a vast sea of victims... who have been tortured, imprisoned, and executed. Their crimes? They are Christians," Kinney reported.

In a secure country where dinner plates bend under the weight of abundance and comfortable churches reside at the center of communities, it's hard for Americans to understand that 500,000 Sudanese Christians have been slaughtered and starved for their faith, or that Saudi Arabian government authorities obsess over ferreting out illegal underground house churches.

"Sudan is so far away; we have no compelling national interest there. Saudi Arabia is, after all, a U.S. ally. China? Well, we can't offend such an important trading partner, can we?"

Excuses, every one. Pitiful, pathetic, political excuses.

If the largest gathering of Christians anywhere in the world — in the most powerful country in the world — won't defend these defenseless believers, then who will intervene for them?

The answer, as the Bible makes clear, is God, and he isn't going to be very happy with us for sitting on our prosperous hands (Psalm 73:3-20).

The blood of these modern-day martyrs is being as carelessly spilled today as ever. We must stand up for them in their strug-

"MAKE US THANKFUL FOR THIS FOOD. AFTER ALL, YOU RAISED THE DEAD. YOU HEALED THE SICK. YOU CAN DO THIS!"



gle. We must speak for them.

We must develop some backbone. We can start with the simple acts of praying over our lunches and living our Christianity for all to see.

It's not too much to ask. People are dying all over the world for exercising such simple fundamentals of the faith.

Maybe, just maybe, we can move from that small personal effort to making a difference for Christianity around the world.

All it takes is a little backbone.

"God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble" Psalm 46:1. This testimony was inspired by my sixth grader. She came into the school office after a very exciting day with hopes to tell me all about it.

Instead, I sent her on an errand. As she was leaving, she turned and said, "Mama, you never have time to listen to me." I realized then I was too busy!

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord" Psalm 127:3. So my challenge will be to take each day one hour at a time and face each one with a smile.

I will take the opportunities throughout the day to be a good listener, an encourager, a prayer warrior, a witness, and a loving parent and wife, and have a Christ-like spirit in all that I say and do.

Even though I may fall, I know God will forgive me and will allow me to try again. What a gracious and loving Savior!

I will rejoice in this day because it was specially designed by God and given to me to use and glorify him — no matter how busy it becomes!

"This is the day which the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it" Psalms 118:24

GUEST OPINION:



Slow down; enjoy life!

By Selina H. Smith, member
Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale

you can see, being a committed Christian can be a busy way of life.

"Serve the Lord with gladness..." Psalm 100:2. The key to a successful, dedicated, and blessed Christian life is allowing Christ to be our guide, give us our direction, and relieve our exhaustion through prayer and supplication with him.

He is always there, always has time, and is never too busy. Hallelujah!

He will help us solve the situation, if we will allow his leadership. What a joy it is to have him as our Lord and Savior, our strength and guide, our rock of salvation.

He is the everlasting peace when we think there is no peace of mind left.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. So, "take time to smell

the roses or coffee" or whatever. Just slow, down, fellowship with your family, children, husband, parents, friends, co-workers, and attend church regularly.

Regular church attendance is our salvation from the stress and strain of our everyday life.

You will be amazed at what you have missed or who misses you when you miss church.

Fellowshipping with other Christians gives us the strength to carry on and say a kind "How are you" or "We've missed you," to that church visitor or church member.

Call a friend or shut-in, someone who is waiting and in need. Make someone smile with a card that says "Hello," "Thank you" or "I love you." Hug your child, husband, friend, or family member. Life is short. Try never to say "I'm sorry; I'm busy right now!"

Our children are busy with many school and church activities as well as summer jobs, a new career, and preparing for college. We find ourselves feeling tired, run down, needing a break, and needing help! As

Non-SBC ministry's pitch stirring controversy

HOUSTON (ABP) — A speaker at this summer's Pastors' Conference has drawn a rare rebuke from denominational officials worried that churches might be influenced to support his independent ministry over official missions programs of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Both a state Baptist newspaper and trustees of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB) have gone on record criticizing K.A. Paul, who described his evangelistic exploits in India June 15 at the Pastors' Conference, an unofficial gathering that precedes the annual SBC.

In the weeks following, however, several SBC leaders exchanged a flurry of letters and phone calls questioning Paul's background and criticizing his selection for the Pastors' Conference program.

Worried that Paul's Pastors' Conference appearance would be taken by Southern Baptists as an endorsement, IMB trustees passed a resolution July 31 saying that "based on

the information available at this time" they "do not have confidence" in Paul's ministry.

Officials said Paul's Houston-based Gospel to the Unreached Millions organization differs with the SBC's IMB on strategy and lacks the checks and balances of the 152-year-old agency in Richmond, Va., known until a recent SBC restructuring as the Foreign Mission Board.

In a front-page article in the Aug. 5 issue of the Indiana Baptist newspaper, editor John Yeats reported "several conservative leaders" had raised questions about the accuracy of ministry statistics used by Paul and the financial accountability of his organization.

Paul "seems to overstate or exaggerate the extent of his work in India," reported Yeats,



Paul

who in addition to editing the newspaper was elected recording secretary of the convention in June.

While Paul is a member at Second Church, Houston, his independent ministry works with non-Baptist groups. Some conservatives are troubled by his ties to charismatic and Pentecostal groups which hold views on speaking in tongues and other practices that many Baptists view as heretical.

Paul's appearance at the Pastors' Conference included a thinly-veiled appeal for funds for his organization, a violation of protocol.

Yeats pointed out that several complaints began as a reaction to Paul's invitation to speak issued by SBC Pastors' Conference president Ronnie Floyd, who was traveling and could not be reached for comment for this article.

While many critics said they had not heard of Paul before the Pastors' Conference, some reported earlier complaints of aggressive promotion and manipulative fund raising.

This is not Paul's first brush with controversy. Critics have dogged his Gospel to the Unreached Millions through much of its 4-year history.

Some leaders of the 2.3 million-member Assemblies of God, America's largest Pentecostal denomination, are reportedly investigating the ministry.

"Every day, as Dr. Paul says, thousands of people are dying and going to hell and we sit here bickering about missiology and whether we're credible or not," said Steve Marcum, a Southern Baptist who works for Gospel to the Unreached Millions.

Marcum volunteered one consolation: "If God is not bigger than all this, we're in the wrong business anyway."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



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BSSB making alternate shipping plans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) is taking "extraordinary" measures to see that churches get their literature in spite of the nationwide United Parcel Service (UPS) strike.

BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. said dated literature orders placed by Aug. 6 will be sent by other carriers at a cost to the board estimated in excess of \$500,000.

While approximately 70% of the dated orders for use beginning in September had been shipped before the strike began on Aug. 4, Draper said delivery of the remaining 30% has become the board's most immediate concern.

"We have looked at the situation, and we have made this choice because ministry is where our heart is," Draper said. "This is an extraordinary measure, but we choose to do this because churches will get their literature when they need it and because we want to do it."

"We have surveyed some other organizations that are also among the largest UPS customers, and many of those are holding orders until the strike ends. We do not feel we can delay shipment to those we consider partners in ministry."

Affected orders are primarily from ten states. On Aug. 8 the board began shipping orders to Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Draper said if the strike continued into the week of Aug. 11, orders for Alabama, Florida, and Georgia also will have been prepared for shipment by other carriers.

Some orders from churches in other states, placed on or just before Aug. 6, also will be included in the shipment schedule.

Approximately 12,000 churches' orders which were in the board's system by Aug. 6 will be shipped by direct freight for packages of 10 pounds or more.

Packages weighing less than 10 pounds will be sent by U.S. Postal Service. Freight deliveries should be completed by Aug. 22.

Estimated delivery time by the Postal Service is 14 to 21 days.

However, Draper asked churches not jam the board's phone lines inquiring about deliveries. "Please allow time for the packages to work through this process," he said.

"We will also determine orders that may be in UPS warehouses, and we will send out duplicate orders beginning on Aug. 18. However, due to the freight expense the board will incur, we will not be able to provide free duplicate orders for those delayed in shipping. Churches will be able to return for credit duplicate orders for which they have paid," he stressed.

Churches whose orders were placed beginning Aug. 7 will be offered the choice of delivery by U.S. mail at the usual shipping and handling charge — with no tracking capability and no guarantee of delivery date — or delivery by direct freight with an additional freight charge based on weight with a minimum charge of \$40.

Churches that placed orders after Aug. 6 and are within driving distance of Nashville are encouraged to have a member pick up materials in Nashville with no pick-up charge.

Draper said changing delivery systems requires many employees from across the board to assist in re-sorting packages already marked with

UPS codes to meet other carriers' shipping requirements.

"These are unusual circumstances out of our control," Draper observed, "but we are more than a business. We succeed only when we meet the needs of churches and individuals, and we believe this extraordinary challenge deserves an extraordinary response based on ministry needs."

Garaywa staff



Camp Garaywa 1997 Summer Staff include (front row, left to right) Mandy McBeth, Amy Smith, Lisa Sudduth, Chrissie Phillips, Hayley Wolf, Erin Smith, Shelley Nickles; (second row, left to right) Kaci Keys, Melanie Griffith, Anna Teel, Gwen Humphries, Rachael Holden, Sharee Worsham, Traci Dribben; (third row, left to right) Mandi Trammell, Erin Barthel, Emily Coker, Danielle Robertson, Amber Vaughn, Amy Pounds; (fourth row, left to right) Jessica Newell, Mary Jessica Grant, Nikki Miller, Robin May, Brooke Griffith; (fifth row, left to right) Amanda Cooke, Dara Callendar, Karen Willard, Sonya McLaughlin, Emily Erwin, Kathy Cox; (back row left to right) Lydia Rakestraw, Olivia Taylor, Brandi Raiford, Juanita West, Kandi Patterson. (BR special photo)

New 'Vessels' segment slated for release

A new edition of Vessels, the video magazine of Mississippi Baptists, is due to be released on Aug. 25, according to Judy Chen of the Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Vessels is a 30-minute video program that consists of five different segments. Each segment tells the story about a different ministry in the state that is helping bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

The first segment is called "Six Who Dared." It tells the story of six teenagers from the Lumberton area who, on their own, put together a county-wide evangelistic crusade featuring evangelist Jay Strack and pastor Ike Reighard.

"Community of Grace" is the title of the second segment. It tells of the ministry that Robert and Von Brown started two years ago in the town of Tchula in the Mississippi Delta.

The third segment is about the camping program for boys at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko called "Jesus has the Reins."

The next segment is about the making of television and radio spots produced by the MBCB Church Information Support Team currently being aired on commercial television and radio stations around the state.

The final segment is titled "A Love Gift to North Korea," and tells how Mississippi Baptists sent 1,355 boxes of food in response to a request for 200 boxes of food for the drought-ravaged people of that communist dominated country.

Each segment tells the viewers how Mississippians are spreading the gospel in creative and meaningful ways, and how their Cooperative Program gifts

are being invested.

The video magazine will be shown on various cable and broadcast outlets throughout the state during the fall. A schedule of the broadcasts will be published when it is available.

Vessels can also be shown in a local church — in its entirety for a worship service or Wednesday prayer meeting, or it can be shown one segment at a time as needed in worship or for other small groups.

The VHS-format videotape will be available after Aug. 25 at local associational offices; from members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and from various Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood leaders across the state.

A loaner copy is also available by request from the MBCB Broadcast Services Department.

Vessels is a production of the MBCB Church Information Support Team and Anderson Productions of Jackson.

It is hosted by Roland and

Vessels



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION — Jason Robertson (foreground), Central Hills Retreat program assistant, listens to instructions from Tim Nicholas (right), MBCB communications director, as Ken Anderson prepares to videotape a segment of the Vessels videotape at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. (Photo by Carl M. White)

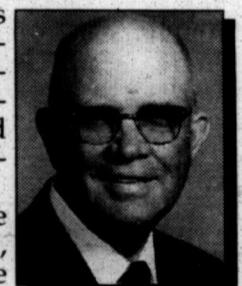
Lisa Leavell, members of First Church, Jackson, and narrated by Graham Smith, Director of the MBCB Church Music Department.

For more information or to

request a copy of Vessels, contact the Broadcast Service Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Or telephone (601) 968-3800; toll-free outside of Jackson, (800) 748-1651.



Fudge



Fite

meeting because a number of unusual and far-reaching projects will be discussed," said Gene Triggs of Madison, chairman of the Agricultural Missions Foundation in Mississippi.

Fudge will describe the opportunities for agriculture in North Korea, and a special project in a sensitive area of the world will be discussed that

involves providing Christian professionals in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, agribusiness, and animal husbandry.

For more information, contact the Agricultural Missions Foundation office in Jackson at (601) 355-2825.

The telephone number for Immanuel Church, Greenwood, is (601) 453-8242.

Ag missions to meet in Greenwood

◆ MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION ◆ SUMMER MISSIONARY TESTIMONIES

BILLY E. SIMMONS

Pacific Northwest - 1955, Mississippi College
Professor of New Testament and
Greek, Emeritus
Former Chair, Division of Biblical Studies
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



In the summer of 1955, I was chosen by the Mississippi BSU to serve in the Northwest United States as a summer missionary. I shall always be thankful to God and the Mississippi BSU for this wonderful experience.

I was privileged to serve in the far Northwest section of the state of Washington in what was then a true pioneer mission field for Southern Baptists. I was paired with another young man to work in revivals and evangelism during the summer. I learned much during that eventful summer that has been of great benefit to me in a career of pastoring and teaching that lasted for forty years. In fact, I am still reaping the benefits of that summer in the Northwest.



1998 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

Oct. 23	Mount Vernon Church, Columbus	5-8 p.m.
Oct. 25	Harrisburg Church, Tupelo	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 1	Baptist Building, Jackson	9 a.m. - noon
Nov. 3	Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale	5-8 p.m.
Nov. 8	First Church, Ocean Springs	10 a.m. - noon
Nov. 15	First Church, Summit	Noon-2 p.m.
Nov. 17	First Church, Meridian	5-8 p.m.
Nov. 20	William Carey College, Hattiesburg	5-8 p.m.
	Thomas Fine Arts Building	(choral and orchestral)
Nov. 21	Alta Woods Church, Jackson	5-8 p.m.
Nov. 22	North Oxford Church, Oxford	5-8 p.m.
Nov. 24	Parkway Church, Natchez	(choral and orchestral) 5-8 p.m.

1998 Rehearsal Camp (at William Carey College) and Tour
June 15-23, 1998

Applications should be submitted at least two weeks prior to auditions to the
MBCB Church Music Department,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

All instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.



Colorado partnership church sees growth

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Greeley, Colo., 67 miles northwest of Denver, is meeting in a building where the fire code allows 45 people. They've had up to 90 people in attendance.

Constituted in 1992, the church drew 12 people in September 1995 when pastor Curt Simmons first arrived.

"That first Sunday, six were my family," said Simmons, a bivocational pastor who also teaches music part-time at a Christian school.

Growth has come from evangelism. Simmons said only one family in the church has a Baptist background, and the rest come from the street — cults and New Agers.

Most are new converts to Christianity.

Simmons has taught the Continuing Witness Training evangelism course and has basically been telling his people how to share their faith. By mid-summer, Simmons had baptized 36 people in the current church year.

The group can't even have Sunday School at their present location, so they meet in homes for Bible study. They call the meetings "Koinonia Groups."

Since the church meets in an area composed largely of Hispanic and migrant workers, Simmons has been searching for a Spanish pastor.

Simmons said the congregation considered building on their present location, but the site doesn't have enough room for parking.

A former Jehovah's Witness

building in the area has now been made available. If the church could obtain that facility, they would be able to accommodate 175 people — quite a jump, according to Simmons.

The problem, as is often the case in Southern Baptist "pioneer" areas, is money. Although about 80% of the congregation are tithers,



said Simmons, "We do not have a lot of wealthy people."

Simmons is what anyone would call an optimist. The former Jehovah's Witness building is five blocks from the University of Northern Colorado campus, "sitting there idle," he said.

Although the cash for the building purchase is not in

hand, the congregation believes that "God is moving us," Simmons said.

Mississippi Baptists are currently involved in a multi-year partnership missions project with Colorado Baptists.

For more information of partnership missions, contact the Partnership Missions Office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Venezuela partnership needs listed

By Bill Hardy, Director
MBCB Partnership Missions Office

Since January 1996, Mississippi Baptists have partnered with Baptists in the South American country of Venezuela, opening doors of ministry as Venezuelans have discovered needs and developed projects for which they have requested help through the partnership.

Discovered needs have included agricultural projects such as clean water and good crop production methods. Medical teams have been able to help with health problems and aid in the area of nutrition.

The Mississippi Baptist Agricultural Mission Fellowship recently sent a survey team to Venezuela to help determine some of the needs. The team was composed of Aubrey Cox of Brookhaven, Ernest Scruggs of Sardis, and Dick Stafford of Greenwood.

The following projects came about as a result of the survey:

Water wells

There is a need for clean drinking water in many communities, as well as water for gardening and farming projects. Bill Schultz of the Agricultural Missions Fellowship and David Browder, projects coordinator in Venezuela, are working on these projects and more information will be forthcoming as the projects develop.

Garden plots

The survey team identified twenty areas for garden plots, each consisting of a 20' x 40' area with space for twenty packages of seed (\$1 per packet) plus fertilizer.

Construction

A pilot project has been designed that will consist of ten frame structures at \$400 each where hammocks could be strung for the many homeless children to have a place to sleep at night, providing a unique opportunity to minister to these young people.

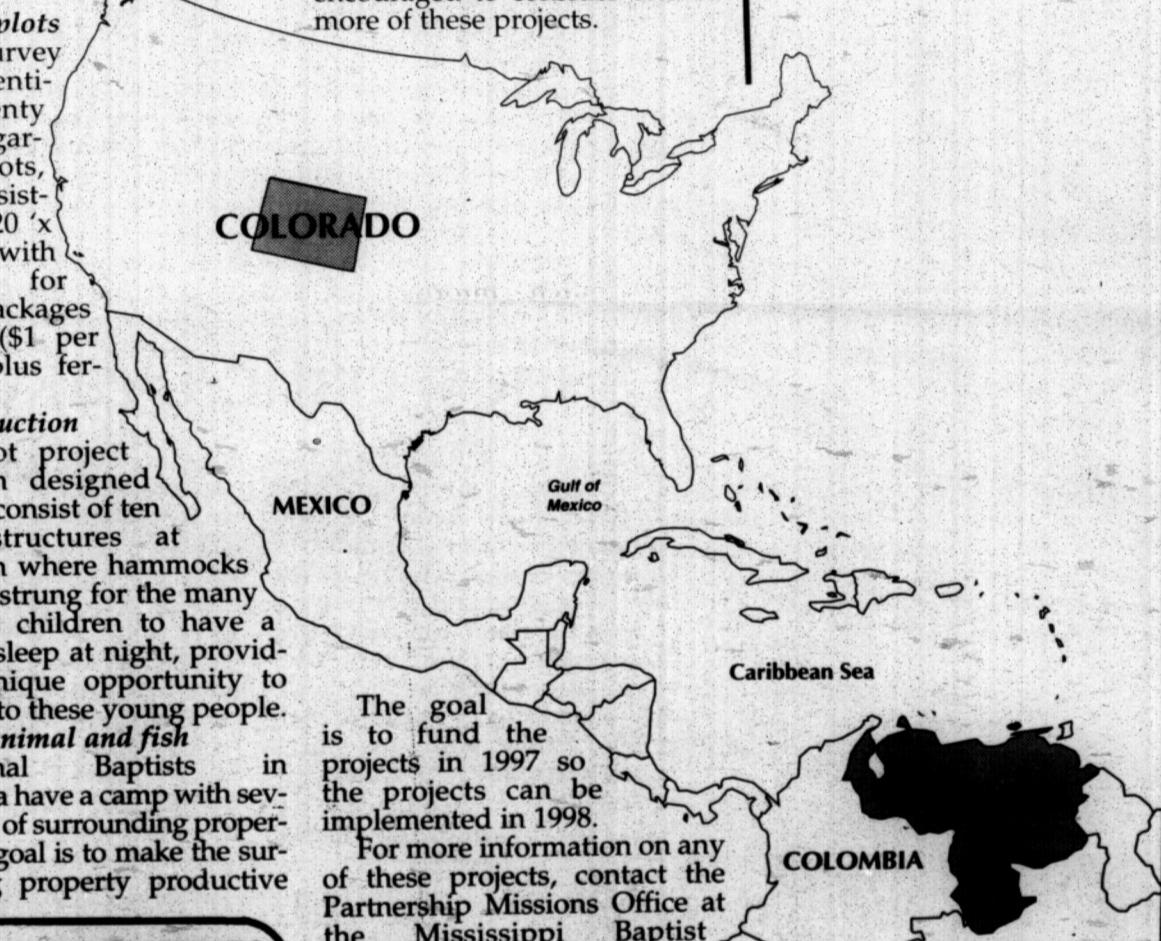
Animal and fish

National Baptists in Venezuela have a camp with several acres of surrounding property. Their goal is to make the surrounding property productive

for the camp by acquiring:

- ◆ 10 goats at \$100 each.
- ◆ 10 breeding heifer cows at \$250 each.
- ◆ 10 milk cows at \$500 each.
- ◆ 2 fish-stocking projects at \$250 each.

Churches, Baptist Men and Baptist Women groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Acteens, and Challenger groups desiring a mission project are encouraged to consider one or more of these projects.



JOIN A GOOD TEAM

We have several job openings in our printing/publishing company. Qualifications for these positions vary but in all cases we're looking for quality-minded, motivated people who can work with our teams:

ASSISTANT WEB PRESS OPERATOR: You should have experience in offset printing. This position is the number 2 operator on a ColorKing web offset press. Day shift, M-F.

SMALL PRESS OPERATOR: You must have experience running a small sheetfed press. Hamada experience preferred. Day, M-F.

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Male teachers have lasting, positive impact

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (BP) — Leon Castle might be mistaken for a military recruiter because he's constantly looking for a few good men.

He prepares them for battle, but not with guns and bombs. His recruits are armed with integrity and dependability and assigned to the children's ministry.

When men are involved in children's education, "it communicates that spiritual things are important, that godliness is manly," said Castle, associate pastor at First Church, Charlottesville, Va. Castle and his wife, Nancy, also serve as state consultants for Children in Action, the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) coed missions education program.

Most children are taught by women in church as well as preschools and elementary schools, Castle noted. In response, Woman's Missionary Union is issuing a challenge for men to be "Dynamite Dads."

"Christian men, fathers or not, can become a dynamite dad for a child who needs your help, a voice and the touch of God's love through human hands," said Kathy Burns, WMU preschool consultant.

Bo Simms, director of the missions growth team for South Carolina Baptists, teaches Mission Friends with his wife, Charlene, at Shannon Church, Columbia, S.C. Mission Friends is the WMU coed program for preschoolers.

Men involved in children's missions education "sets a pattern early in these children's lives about the importance of studying missions and being a missionary," said Simms, a former home missionary.

"My parents saw to it that I was involved in my day. I still remember the motto and rally cry for missions," Simms



Aaron Hawley (standing) of Ruston, La., served as a male role model to children attending Day Camp at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center this summer. A junior at Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, Ark., Hawley led the first and second graders through Bible-learning as well as fun activities. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

said. The coed leaders of his missions education at College Park Church, Orlando, Fla., "planted a time bomb in my life that would go off many years later."

Burns cited a study showing 85% of children brought to church by both parents and taught by both men and women in the preschool years will stay in church for the rest of their lives.

The prevalence of single-parent families is one reason men need to be involved in children's education.

"Children need a male influence. It does

so much for these children who only see Mom as caregivers," said Marcia McQuitty, associate professor of childhood education, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a former church preschool minister. "I always tried to get at least one man in each preschool class, especially in light of the many children who came without fathers in their homes."

"When we teach children, they have it for the rest of their lives. We're enriching them with spiritual truths they'll have forever," Castle added.

Disney critic Drake convicted in zoning dispute

FULLERTON, Calif. (ABP) — A California minister best known as a leader in the Southern Baptist Convention's Disney boycott was found guilty July 28 of violating city zoning codes for feeding and sheltering the homeless at his church.

An apparently sympathetic jury convicted both Pastor Wiley Drake and his First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., on four of five misdemeanor counts of

building-code violations. All relate to the church's Here's Hope Social Ministry Center, which gives groceries to hundreds of people every month and allows dozens of homeless to sleep at the church



Drake

instead of in cars or dumpsters.

Drake, 53, was visibly upset as the verdict was read late Monday afternoon at Orange County Superior Court, but later said he would appeal and maintain his ministry.

Along with distributing about 25,000 pounds of groceries per month, he said his church houses about 50 people — some sleeping in their cars on church property, others inside on cots. Some food and clothing donations come from the local Catholic St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Drake and his church, which was charged as a corporation, each were found guilty of four misdemeanor building code violations:

◆ "Conducting activities within a commercial zone that are not inside a permanently constructed building."

◆ "A change in the use of a patio structure from recreational to mercantile not in conformance with the administrative code and the building code."

◆ "A change in patio use not in conformance with the administrative code and without approval of the building official."

◆ "A change in the patio use not in conformance with the building code and without

approval of the building official."

Drake is the man who asked the Southern Baptist Convention to boycott Walt Disney Co. last year in New Orleans. The convention stopped short of issuing a boycott at that meeting but warned of a possible boycott unless Disney reversed its pro-homosexual stances in employment and theme-park marketing. At this year's convention in Dallas, messengers approved a resolution asking Southern Baptists to "refrain from patronizing" Disney and its 200-plus subsidiaries.

Drake's church, which has about 75 members, is four-and-a-half miles from Disneyland. "We just teach the whole Bible," he said, explaining his stances on the homeless and Disney. "The Bible teaches we are there to take care of the poor and go and sin no more."

Several jurors told both newspapers they respected and admired what Drake was doing, but that their verdicts centered on legal, not moral, issues.

"It was very hard to punish him, but the law is made for everybody and everybody needs to follow it," said 22-year-old juror Michele Pryor.

Drake pledges to continue homeless ministry

BUENA PARK, Calif. (ABP) — Despite a court order July 30 to halt his work with the poor, outspoken pastor Wiley Drake was still feeding and sheltering the homeless that evening at his First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif.

Court-process servers tried unsuccessfully a day earlier to serve Drake, 53, with a preliminary injunction barring him from allowing poor people to sleep in cots at his church or in cars on church property.

Drake said on the morning of Thursday, July 31, that he was not trying to avoid the court papers, but that all day Tuesday he was being interviewed by "one radio station after another," and that a limousine came for him late Tuesday afternoon to go to Los Angeles for a CBS News interview.

The process server arrived about the same time Drake was going from his office to the limousine. "I was in a hurry," Drake said. "I never saw a process server."

Drake and his church were found guilty July 28 of four counts each of misdemeanor building code violations in Orange County Superior Court. An appeal is planned. Sentencing is set Aug. 22.

After the injunction was served successfully on Drake Wednesday afternoon, his attorneys gave the process server an appeal to stay the order, which allows Drake to maintain his homeless ministry pending an appeal.

"I'm still doing everything," Drake said.

Increased publicity thanks to Monday's conviction prompted an increase in food and clothing donations to the church. On Thursday, a woman who claimed to be a direct descendant of both Mayflower Pilgrims and a Declaration of Independence signer picketed in front of Buena Park city government offices in support of Drake.

The church is expecting a larger-than-usual worship crowd this Sunday, including reporters and some of the jurors who found Drake guilty this week.

CHURCHES UNDER ATTACK

Editor:

Does anyone out there still believe in the principles developed under The Baptist Faith and Message based upon the Bible, God's Holy Word? If so, wake up! It is under attack here in Mississippi within some of our churches. Do you recognize any of these in your church?

1. The priesthood of the believer is violated.

2. The Baptist designation is eliminated from the church name, information, etc.

3. Members are required to sign one or more membership covenants and are required to attend membership classes.

4. Baptist curricula/organizations are dropped from the church.

5. Information concerning church programs, finances, etc. is tightly controlled until official "spin" is placed on it.

6. Committees are sworn to secrecy on matters coming before them.

7. Church discipline is used to intimidate the membership.

8. Business meetings are generally unannounced and become fewer in number until they reach one per year.

9. Members are not allowed to speak in business meetings. Names of the meetings are changed to conferences, forums, etc.

10. The governance of the church changes from the two scriptural offices recognized in The Baptist Faith and Message of pastors and deacons to a hierarchy (i.e. elders, etc.) which controls all church matters.

There are those in some of

our churches who are determined to change some Baptist churches into a "high church" concept and remove the democratic process.

Our responsibility as Baptists is to prevent this from happening. Are you willing to stand up against this movement? The time is now!

James F. Shill
Brandon

PRINCIPLE INVOLVED

Editor:

For three years or more, Jon Stubblefield, pastor of First Church, Shreveport, has taught some extension courses for New Orleans Seminary.

Recently, he was informed the classes had been cancelled due to lack of funds. He offered to teach it free, no salary involved. The offer was refused.

Later he heard he had been disqualified because of his church's ties with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

The church does not contribute to CBF but permits members to designate money to the Fellowship.

According to the Associated Baptist Press, similar action was taken against Philip Wise of First Church, Dothan, Ala.

Somewhere in all of this, the autonomy of the local church is involved and churches are being penalized for giving to CBF.

I have never given a dime to CBF, but there is a principle involved here that is deadening.

It seems to be okay if Bellevue, Memphis; First, Atlanta; or First, Jacksonville, Fla. support causes outside SBC channels. Churches can support Jerry Falwell and Liberty University with impunity, but don't try to support fellow Southern Baptists who choose another route.

Stubblefield is an able conservative pastor and his church gave \$65,000 to the 1996 Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

Therefore, it is not doctrines

but pure convention politics that is really behind this.

Eventually, there could well be an effort to penalize your own autonomous church because some member gave an offering to CBF missions.

I wonder what men such as P.I. Lipsey, J.D. Grey, Roland Q. Leavell, or M.E. Dodd would say about such an event?

Guy Henderson
Clinton

PASTOR SOUGHT

Editor:

Trinity Baptist Church, with a membership of 55 families, located in Baumholder Germany, which is approximately 80 miles southwest of Frankfurt, is in need of a pastor.

The congregation is mainly composed of people connected with the American Military.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, please

contact: Woody Josey, PSC 2 Box 5483, APO AE 0912.

Woody Josey
Baumholder, Germany

TRACTOR NEEDED

Editor:

The Dorroh Lake Baptist Assembly of Webster Association is in need of a good tractor, 35-horsepower or above with power steering. If you have one you would donate or sell at a reasonable price, call Thomas Dorroh at (601) 258-7545.

Thomas Dorroh
Eupora

HOMECOMING SET

Editor:

Cherry Street Church, Clarksdale, is planning its first annual homecoming on Oct. 19. Former members and non-resident members can contact us so we can mail invitations:

Cherry Street Baptist Church
531 Cherry Street
Clarksdale, MS 38614
Jerry Jenkins
Clarksdale



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

'Remarkable quarter' is cited by Annuity head

MANALAPAN, Fla. (BP) — "The second quarter can be characterized as remarkable," said Paul W. Powell, president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, in his report to trustees at their summer meeting Aug. 4-5 in Manalapan, Fla.

Preliminary reports for July indicate earnings of \$250 million for the month, far exceeding the previous record for a single month, Powell said.

Earnings in September 1996, the previous high, were \$164 million.

Total assets at the end of July are expected to be \$6.35 billion.

Treasurer William C. Lee reported total assets on June 30, 1997, stood at \$6.106 billion, the first reporting period in which assets exceeded \$6 billion.

Trustees were told the board operated within its approved budget in the first six months, while paying record benefits and generating record earnings from investments.

Benefits and withdrawals totaled \$160 million. While this total was 4% lower than 1996,

there was a major withdrawal in 1996 when a Baptist hospital was sold, making its employees ineligible to participate in Annuity Board plans.

When that withdrawal is discounted from the comparison, payments to participants were 10% higher than in 1996.

Payments for benefits and withdrawals in 1997 have exceeded the \$142 million in contributions to participant accounts by \$18 million, but contributions were up 8.4% over 1996.

Total assets also were bolstered by earnings of \$462 million, compared to \$291 million earnings for the same six months in 1996.

Powell, investment executive officer John R. Jones and treasurer Lee all noted with satisfaction the performance of the funds available to participants in Annuity Board retirement plans.

Powell also noted Southern Baptists are responding in record numbers to special financial needs through the Adopt an Annuitant program.

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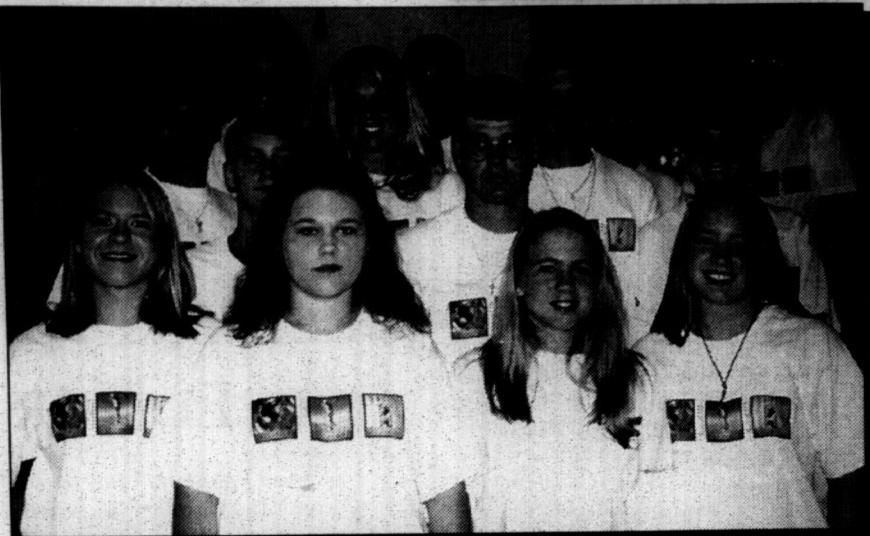
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Noxapater Church, Noxapater, sent 11 youth and four adult counselors to Centrifuge at Ridgecrest Assembly, N.C., June 28-July 4. "Many life changing commitments were made and revival was experienced," said David Sumner, youth minister. Wayne Sanders is pastor.

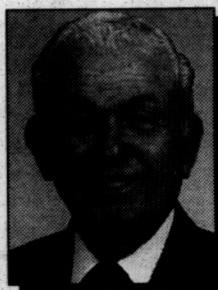
Spring Cottage Church, Marion County, will celebrate its 75th anniversary, Aug. 22-24. Jeff and Scott Crook, evangelists and former pastors, will bring the messages. Services on Fri. and Sat. will be held at 7 p.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday with dinner on the grounds. A service with singing will be

held after lunch. For more information, contact Russ Ford at (601) 736-0498.

Galilee First Church, Gloster, will celebrate 173 years on Aug. 17. Guests will be the Hill Family from Laurel. An area wide crusade will be held Aug. 17-20 at 7 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Church and Galilee are co-sponsors of this crusade.

Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal, will honor Emmett Boone on

Aug. 24 for his service to the ministry of 50 years. A covered dish luncheon will be held in his honor following the morning worship service. Boone is pastor emeritus of Lynn Ray Road Church.



Boone

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Steve Maughan, top left, was recently ordained and is now serving as pastor of Tinsley Church, Tinsley. Ernie Lentz, right, presented Maughan with a gift from Arkabutla Church, his home church.

Kimberly S. South, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C.

South of Tishomingo, has recently begun a ministry assignment with The Church on Brady, a multi-ethnic church in East Los Angeles, Calif. A recent graduate of William Carey College, South is serving as a "Tentmaker Missionary" through the Mission Service Corps Department of the North American Mission Board. Tentmaker missionaries follow the example of the Apostle Paul, who made tents to financially support his ministry. For more information on becoming a mission volunteer, contact Carl Barrington, 5295 Twillingate Place, Duluth, GA 30097.



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Three ministers have recently participated in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. The program, which trains ministers in providing chaplain care in a hospital setting, is sponsored by Baptist's Pastoral Care Department. From left are Jack Follis, Ed.D., program coordinator; and CPE participants Mike Sturdivant, a student at Asbury Seminary in Kentucky; Don Weber who is serving an internship at Centura Health Systems in Denver; and Jo Holloman, a student at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City.

Isom Hill is pastor.

The Rock Rally, sponsored by the County Youth Evangelism Team, Choctaw County Association, will be held Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. On pro-

gram will be Ryan Richardson & Co., music; Jad Khalaf, challenger/encourager; and Mark Kelly, youth evangelist. For more information, contact Donna Oswalt, Rt. 2, Box 193, Mathiston, MS 39752.

STATE CHOIR LEADERSHIP CLINIC

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August 22-23, 1997



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GRADES 1-6..... Donna Mayeux

CHOIR COORDINATORS..... Mary Barton

YOUTH..... Susan Clark

COST: \$5 per person **No pre-registration required.
Registration begins Friday, August 22, 6:00 p.m.

For more information contact Sarah Talley, Church Music Department, MBCB
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BRIARWOOD DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH seeks part-time Youth Director. Call (601) 956-4561 or send inquiries to: 245 Briarwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39206.

ACCEPTING RESUMES – For full-time Minister of Music/Youth. Send to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 400, Lepanto, Arkansas 72354 Attention: Pastor.

ACCEPTING RESUMES for full time Music/Youth. Send to First Baptist Church, 811 Port Arthur, Mena, AR 71953. (601) 722-9000.

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MUSIC SECRETARY. First Baptist Church, Jackson has an opening for a music secretary who would work with the sanctuary choir. Experience with desktop publishing & Windows '95 is helpful. Interested parties should contact Terry Sims at 949-1921.

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CHOIR ROBES FOR SALE: Have 50 robes and 1 Director's robe, cream color with reversible stole. New Hope Baptist Church, Meridian, MS 601-693-4490.

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Mississippians to serve in South America

RICHMOND, Va. — M. David and Mary M. Phillips Sills have been reappointed as missionaries by the International Mission Board.

They join the nearly 4,200 International Mission Board workers sharing Christ in 127 countries among 336 ethnic people groups.

The Sillses were among 45 people appointed by the board during a service at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

These missionaries are the first group appointed by the International Mission Board since changing its name from Foreign Mission Board in June.

The Sillses will live in Peru. The Evangelical Baptist Convention in Peru is working to increase its church membership and the number of churches by improving its Christian education and teacher training through Sunday School.

He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of out-

reach ministries.

Since 1995 he has been pas-



Mary and David Sills

tor of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. Before that they were International Mission Board missionaries to Ecuador from 1991 to 1995.

Born and reared in Jackson, David Sills is the son of T.D.

NOBTS graduates told

Receiving the master of divinity degree during commencement exercises at New Orleans Seminary on July 25 were: Stewart Richard Smith, youth minister at Juniper

Grove Church, Poplarville; Chun-Seb Song, Sunday School director at Biloxi Korean Church, Biloxi; and Stewart Moody, pastor of Antioch Church, Louisville.

Receiving the master of arts were Christopher (Kit) Ashton Williams, who previously served as youth minister for Oloh Church, Oloh; Bernice E. Balch of Laurel; and Sandra Jones Huff of Jackson. Dave Tribble, music and education minister at Calvary Church, Greenville, received the master of church music degree.

Robert (Bobby) A. Stults Sr. of Laurel received the bachelor of arts degree.

Robert (Bobby) A. Stults Sr. of Laurel received the bachelor of arts degree.

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and Virginia M. Sills. He considers Woodland Hills Church his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Belhaven College, Jackson; the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary; and the doctor of missiology degree from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson.

Before his appointment he was pastor of Lula Church in Jackson.

Born in Alexandria, La., Mary Sills is the daughter of D.H. and Maxine Phillips of Jackson. She considers Jackson her hometown and Woodland Hills Church her home church.

She attended the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Before her appointment she was a secretary for Volunteers of America in New Orleans.

The Sillses have two children: Christopher Michael, born in 1983; and Molly Catherine, 1986.

Kaye E. Brooks, who was born in Biloxi, was also appointed to missionary service in Chile.

Brooks is the daughter of J.W. and Carol Brooks of Austin, Texas.

While growing up she lived in Colorado Springs, Ankara, Turkey; Seoul, Korea; Eufaula, Ala., and Laredo, Texas. She considers Austin her hometown and First Church in Albuquerque her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.



Brooks

Baptist College News

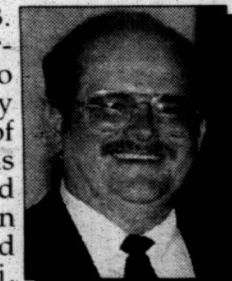
Melissa Heinz has been promoted from assistant coach to the new head coach of the women's soccer team at William Carey College on the Coast. Tom Brown, who has coached the Lady Crusaders soccer team for the past two years is headed to a similar position at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

STAFF CHANGES

Two new members have been added to the staff of Vaiden Church, Vaiden. **Bob Purvis**, a native of Enterprise, was called as minister of youth effective June 1. Purvis received his education at Jones County Junior College and Southwestern Seminary. **Carra A. Kent**, a native of Iuka, was called as minister of music effective Aug. 8. Kent is a graduate of William Carey College and Mississippi Delta Community College and previously served Strong River Church, Pinola.

J. D. Simpson Jr. has recently been called to Parkway Church, Clinton, as minister of students. Simpson is a graduate of Louisiana State University and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Randy Carney was called as minister of music and youth to Temple Church, Big Point, June 2. His former place of service was Riverside Church,

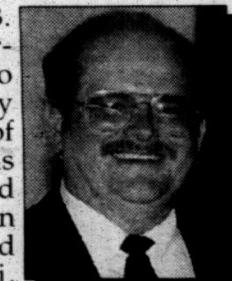


Nance

Pascagoula. He is also a member of the Common Ground Trio.

Knoxo Church, Tylertown, has called **Brian R. Welch** as pastor effective Aug. 10. A native of Sandersville, Ga., Welch attended Mercer University and is a graduate of Brewton-Parker University.

First Church, Nicholson, has called **Danny Nance** as pastor effective July 13. Nance surrendered to the ministry at the age of 15 and has pastored churches in Texas and Mississippi. He worked four years as the director of the Baptist Student Union for Texarkana College, Texarkana, Texas. Nance is currently working on his doctorate degree at New Orleans Seminary.



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Alabama board excludes Univ. of Mobile

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — The executive committee of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions has recommended the University of Mobile be excluded from the 1998 Cooperative Program budget.

That action came after almost four hours of debate behind closed doors July 25 in Montgomery.

The executive committee action said the university could be restored to the budget if it submits "an acceptable response" to a June 3 resolution the committee adopted concerning the university's financial crisis.

The committee asked for a "definite written plan of action ... no later than Aug. 20, 1997."

"The University of Mobile has not given adequate response to the June 3 request of the executive committee asking the university to comply

with their 1994 agreements with the Alabama Baptist State Convention," said James Newell, pastor of Coosada Church, for the committee.

On June 3, the executive committee asked the University of Mobile to certify in writing it was living by the 1994 agreements specifying the Nicaraguan campus of the university will be funded only by money generated by that campus or given for the work of that campus.

The university also agreed to send no more funds from the Mobile campus to Nicaragua after the 1994 date.

In addition, the school was to return to the Mobile campus about \$2.3 million already spent on the Nicaraguan campus.

However, on May 22, following the ouster of Michael Magnoli as president, University of Mobile trustee chairman Robert Maxwell told the

Alabama board executive committee the Latin American debt had grown to \$3.2 million.

Maxwell, an attorney from Atmore, said the debt had grown despite the university's announcement the previous November the debt had been reduced to about \$1.6 million.

The decision to recommend the university be removed from the 1998 Cooperative Program budget came as somewhat of a surprise.

Before going into executive session, Newell announced the special ad hoc committee monitoring developments at the University of Mobile was rec-

ommending the executive committee ask all University of Mobile trustees to resign.

Instead, the committee opted to remove the university from the budget until it comes into compliance with the 1994 agreement.

In a related matter, three federal subpoenas were served on the University of Mobile July 23.

Interim university president Walter Hovell said he had been told to expect additional subpoenas in the days ahead.

The subpoenas were the first tangible evidence of criminal investigations that have been reported as under way.

B. A. Jones, minister, dies

Funeral services were held on Aug. 4 for B. Alfred Jones at Improve Church in Marion County. He died at the age of 77 after preaching for 56 years.

His final pastorate was Ebenezer Church in Jeff-Davis County. He had pastored Hurricane Creek, Cedar Grove, South Columbia, and Antioch churches in Marion County in addition to ten other churches.

Jones was a graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College and completed his graduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi. He was involved in public education for 30 years. He was one of the founders of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel and served as its first acting president and fund-raiser for two years.

He was very active in pastoral, preaching, evangelistic, mission, and civic ministries. His mission activity included work in Ohio, the Northwest, Saudi Arabia, and Honduras.

Jones is survived by his wife Arline Rice Jones of Columbia, five daughters, and two sons.

REVIVAL DATES

Sebastopol, Sebastopol: Aug. 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Paul Stephenson, evangelist; Jasper Butler, music; David E. Sartin, pastor.

Calvary, Canton: Aug. 17-20; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Hurt, Canton, evangelist; Chris Turner, Canton, music; Jim Hurt, pastor.

Ford's Creek, Poplarville: Aug. 17-19; 7 p.m.; Robert Barnes, evangelist; Joel Farrow, pastor.

Center Grove (Oktibbeha): Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; George Shaw, evangelist; Bo Parker, music; Jack Teer, pastor.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: Aug. 18-22; 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Meridian, speaker; Randy and Janice Carruth, music.

Concord (Benton-Tippah): Aug. 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. each evening; Paul Wilson, Tupelo, evangelist; Elmo Mercer, Nashville, Tenn., music; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

Bethany, Bay Springs: Aug. 18-20; 7 p.m.; speakers each night are Mon., Ken Hembree; Tues., Steve Huber; and Wed., Jonathan Pippen; Kimberly Brady, Bay Springs, music; Eddie M. Brady, pastor.

McCall Creek (Franklin): Aug. 20-24; Wed-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; and

lunch in fellowship hall; Gene Erwin, evangelist; Eugene Roberts, pastor, music; David Roberts, pianist.

Looxahoma, Senatobia: Sept. 7-10; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. each night; Oscar Geeslin, Olive Branch, evangelist; Otha Geeslin, Bett, music; Alex Lawson, pastor.

Bethesda (Metro): Sept. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eugene Dobbs, executive assistant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Robert Mayfield, Bethesda Church, music.

Gulfshore summer staff



Gulfshore Assembly Summer 1997 staff included (back row, from left) Douglas Wasson, Ted Dewett, Brian Bell, Jay McGuffee, Chad Davis, Nathan Taylor, Neil Wolgamott, Paul Wolf, Scott Craft, Gulfshore Assembly Director Frank Simmons, (fourth row, from left) Ken Fender, Ben Skipper, Jody Hawkins, Brian Hibbs, Jason Brown, Michelle Bock, Phil Nelson, Derek Easley, Bobby Bass, Russ Rutland, Brad Johns, (third row, from left) Chris Towles, Christy Thompson, Michelle Prentiss, Angie England, Jamie Ray, Hope Caples, Blake Weber, Ashley Minyard, Kelly Dunn, Kerri Holley, Susan Irby, (second row, from left) Kim Towles, Robyn Jones, Donna Gladney, Teresa Floyd, Lindsay Maddox, Kevin Wright, Dana Dykes, Erin Dunney, Julie Carpenter, Charlie Neely, Leigh Anne Lubiani, Tabitha McGee, Jill Harrington, Devin Walsh, Lylla Cooper, (front row, from left) Heather Kuriger, Jodi Miles, Shea Atkins, Jennifer Adams, Christina Hubbard, Sha Boatner, Dara Dowdle, Betsy Warrington, Kristy Lowe, and Kimberly Alexander. (BR special photo)

HOECOMINGS

Bayou View, Gulfport: Aug. 17; 40th anniversary; Gary McCormick will preach at 10:45 a.m. with a luncheon and concert by Victory following morning services.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: Aug. 17; 10 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; and singing by Obadiah in afternoon; Joe Royalty, guest speaker.

Janice, Brooklyn: Aug. 17; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner will follow the service with singing in the afternoon.

Frederick, New Albany: Aug. 24; 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Tommy

Wilder, Ashland, guest speaker; Joe Herndon, pastor.

Euclatubba, Saltillo: Aug. 24; 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. singing; Witness, guest singers; Ken Pollock, Saltillo, guest speaker; cemetery meeting and ground breaking ceremonies to take place; Johnny Hearn, pastor.

First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg: Aug. 24; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m. concert with John and Beth Greene; Michael Funderburk, Steele, Mo., former member, speaker; John Greene, Plano, Texas (former minister of music) guest singer; Tom Sumrall, pastor.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Believing in Jesus' resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

By Jason Bird

Believers tread on dangerous ground when they merely pick and choose which parts of the word of God they will believe and obey. Such was the case for the believers in Corinth. Though they knew Paul and the other apostles had preached Christ resurrected, they insisted there was no bodily resurrection of anyone. Paul addressed this heresy and its implications by affirming that Christ indeed had been resurrected.

The Heresy (15:12). Paul was familiar with those who doubted the possibility of the resurrection. While in Athens, he had the opportunity to meet



with philosophers on the Areopagus and teach them about Jesus. When he stated that Christ was raised from the dead, many of the philosophers sneered at him (see Acts 17:32). Later, when arrested, he stood before the Sanhedrin and turned the Pharisees against the Sadducees by indicating that he was only there because of his hope in the resurrection of the dead. The Pharisees believed in this possibility, but the Sadducees denied it (see Acts 23:8). Now, however, some within the church declared it impossible for the dead to return to life. Paul found this unbelievable in light

of their profession of faith in a risen Savior! Paul carries their thoughts to a logical conclusion and shows them the serious implications of such doctrine.

The Implications of the Heresy (15:13-19).

First, if no one could be resurrected from the dead, then Jesus is still dead. If Jesus is still dead, then there is no hope, either for Corinthians or anyone else. In this case, Christianity has nothing more to offer than any other of the world's empty religions and the Gospel is meaningless.

Secondly, Paul and the other apostles would be exposed as liars if Christ were not risen from the dead. They had unapologetically claimed that Christ lived. If they lied about Christ's resurrection then these men could not be trusted in anything they said.

If Christ is not risen from the

dead, then believers are no better off than unbelievers. If Jesus is not alive then he did not conquer sin and if he didn't conquer sin, then all people are still under the judgement of God. To be "in your sins" is to remain in a sinful state.

Fourth, Paul states that if Christ is not alive no hope exists for those who have already died. All of the Old Testament saints and every other person who placed their faith in God would spend eternity in torment.

Finally, the apostle states that if Christ is not alive, then believers are the most pitiful people on earth because all of their work would be for nothing. Christianity is meaningless apart from the resurrection of Christ because a lifeless Savior provides no purpose for this life or a life to come.

The Reality (15:20). The reality of the Gospel is that Jesus is alive. Paul had already mentioned the witnesses to the resur-

rection (see 15:3-8). Now he states that the resurrection of Jesus guarantees the resurrection of all who believe in him. Genesis 3 records Adam's disobedience to God. Through this disobedience sin entered the world and all mankind must deal with its consequences. However, through the righteous obedience of one man, Jesus, all men have the opportunity for spiritual birth and the hope that it brings.

The word of God clearly teaches that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead. If the resurrection cannot be believed, then neither can any of the claims of scripture. Today, when believers contemplate their own death, or stand at the grave side of a loved one, they can do so with the strong assurance that comes from knowing they serve a Savior who has defeated death, both now and forevermore.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Live by faith

Hebrews 11:1-40

By Wayne VanHorn

Faith's Definition (11:1-2). "Faith is the substance (Greek *hypostasis*) of things hoped for the evidence (Greek *elenchos*) of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). *Hypostasis* means assurance, something that is as good as obtained though not yet so. *Elenchos* means proof. What we accept by faith, we need no further proof of, though tangible proof often bolsters faith. With this understanding of faith, the writer of Hebrews makes a simple assertion. "For by it the men of old gained approval" (11:2; NASB). The definition and

assertion of 11:1-2, supported by concrete examples of notable figures from the Old Testament in the remaining portion of Hebrews 11, serve to demonstrate how those who profess Christ can go on to the expected maturity called for in Heb. 6:1. The term "approval" in 11:2 (NASB) derives from the passive form of the verb *matureo* meaning "to bear witness." The writer points to the fact that heroes of the faith in by gone ages were well thought of and highly esteemed because of their faith in God. Others bore witness to the faith demonstrat-



VanHorn

ed by these heroes of the past. The clear implication is that true esteem is available to the readers only as they put their faith in God as well.

Faith's Mandate (11:6).

The Greek text contains a pun lost in the English translation. The word for faith is *pistis* and the word for believe is *pisteuo*. Both words come from the same root. The first is a noun; the second is a verb. The quest to please God is the ultimate sign of Christian maturity. No one can please God without faith. The one who comes to God must believe or have faith in God's existence and must have faith in the fact that God rewards those who seek him. "Who comes to God" and "who seek him" are references to the spiritual growth process that results

in the desired maturity.

Faith's Examples (11:4-5, 7-12, 17-38). The writer uses his knowledge of heroes of faith from the past to support his point that faith is the pathway to pleasing God. He cites such notable examples as Abel (the first man called righteous in the Bible), Enoch (the first man said to have walked with God), Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, and others. Though their specific circumstances differed, all of these people exhibited reverential faith in God as he revealed himself to them. They gained the victory over their circumstances as a result and their lives were pleasing to God. Each of these heroes put God ahead of worldly desires. All of them paid a price.

Faith's Assurance (11:13-16, 39-40). The life of faith results in approval. As stated above this "approval" refers to the positive

witness of others toward the believer. Yet, in spite of their approval among people, even these great heroes of faith have not received what was promised (11:39). In God's time and in God's way, they will be made perfect along with all who have lived by faith up to the time of Christ's coming. The idea of the Greek word rendered "made perfect" is "to complete or "to bring to fulfillment." When time runs out and the last word is written on human history, God will complete the process of redemption whereby all who believe in Jesus are made perfectly whole. From that moment on the entire community of faith from Abel to the last believer will enjoy uninterrupted fellowship with God. Oh, how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

VanHorn is pastor, First Church Columbia.

LIFE AND WORK

Issues facing society: prejudice

Acts 10:9-16, 27-29a, 34-35, 11:15-18

By Geneva England

Pesky jaybirds pecked away at the bird feed meant for the graceful mockingbirds, proud cardinals, and occasionally gentle dove. We detested those aggressive bluejays until one day we heard an alarming cry like, "Snake! Snake!" Sure enough a snake was slithering its way to a bird nest. This incident changed our attitude toward the heretofore unwelcomed jays.

Do we need an attitude adjustment toward someone or some race because of misinformation or prejudice? Blood battles have erupted because of such misconceptions: for instance, the feuding between the Irish Catholics and the Irish Protestants, apartheid in South Africa, the Serbs versus the



England

Croatians, and our own racial problems. This is not God's design for mankind. Acts 10 and 11 describe what God intends for his followers.

Confronting Prejudice (10:9-13). For Peter, a devout Jew, to carry the gospel message to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, broke strict and sacred Jewish laws. Peter didn't understand that God would save any nationality other than the Jews. God began the necessary change in Peter's heart while Peter stayed with Simon, the Jewish tanner. A tanner was unclean by Levitical law until he followed the rigid rules for cleansing required for anyone handling dead animals. So when Peter stayed at Simon's

house, his prejudices were weakening.

Resisting Change (10:14-16).

While there praying, Peter became hungry. Using a vision of food, God instructed Peter about prejudice. A sheet from heaven descended with all kinds of four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds. Again, Levitical laws prohibited eating animals (without a completely split hoof and chewing a cud), or reptiles that crawled on the ground, or many named birds. Peter revolted against this food much as you and I would revolt against eating fishbait. In alarm, he exclaimed that he had never eaten anything unclean!

Three times Peter saw this vision and heard the same words, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" [NIV]. Gradually, God effected a change in Peter's heart, knowing that Cornelius's servants would soon be at

Simon's door seeking Peter.

Are we, like Peter, so judgmental that we must be shown a truth several times before we embrace it? Christ's second great commandment is to love our fellow man as ourselves. I John 4:7 instructs us to love one another, especially those in Christ. These instructions test our love for God.

Overcoming Prejudice (10:27-29a, 34-35).

Peter went with Cornelius back to Caesarea. Six witnesses also accompanied Peter in case he was criticized by the Jews for meeting with Gentiles. Once in Cornelius' home, Peter reminded the group how unlawful his visit was. They knew, but they still yearned to hear a message from God. They were receptive; Peter was reluctant. Nevertheless, the Greeks received a marvelous outpouring of God's grace and the anointing of the Holy Spirit that day; the Jews received a shock. In amazement, they finally understood that "God is no respector of persons." God accepts all

believers of all nationalities and cultures into the family of God.

Influencing (11:15-18). Peter dared not oppose God, but instead praised him because the Gentiles, too, received the Holy Spirit. Through the example of Peter's evangelism, we understand God's power in the great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations" [NIV].

A favorite children's song sums up the proper Christian attitude toward all people—young or old.

*Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.*

"The Lord does not look at the things a man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (I Sam. 16:7 NIV). To God, "there is no difference between Jew and Greek—the same Lord is Lord of all." Salvation is available to "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord" (Rom. 10:12-13).

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

'Black Like Me' photographer looks back

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. (BP) — Growing up near Murfreesboro, Tenn., in the 1930s and '40s, Don Rutledge saw racial segregation almost everywhere he looked. Except when he looked in the mirror.



Rutledge

"There was just something, some way, that it didn't make sense at all that you would distrust somebody or hate somebody just on the color of their skin," he recalled recently.

Rutledge lived on a farm and had fun playing with the children of tenant farmers — white and black — who worked for his father.

One time he was walking home with some white schoolmates when they started throwing rocks at a group of black students, some of whom lived on the Rutledge farm.

He told them to stop, but they didn't.

"So I ran over to the blacks and started throwing rocks back at the whites," Rutledge said, chuckling at the memory.

A black woman helped Rutledge's mother in the kitchen, and one day he found her crying.

He asked why. "She said some white man had told her that no niggers had souls, and when they died, that was the end of it, like animals."

Rutledge told her he would talk to his Sunday School teacher, and make notes, and go to her house Sunday afternoons and teach Bible to her family — they didn't have a church. Don expected the woman's family and maybe one more family, but he found a big group waiting. Some walked from two to three miles away for Sunday Bible study.

"It worked out real well. Several people became Christians and started a church."

Through such experiences, perhaps God was keeping an eye on Don for a future task — serving as photographer for the book "Black Like Me" by John Howard Griffin.

Nearly 40 years after its publication, Rutledge recently looked back on that brief but unforgettable assignment in December 1959.

A new book, "Man in the Mirror: John Howard Griffin and the Story of Black Like Me" by Robert Bonazzi (Orbis Books), comes out in August. Bonazzi is the husband of Griffin's widow, Elizabeth.

Rutledge's part in "Black Like Me" began stemmed from his determination to make a career of photography and, at age 29, suggesting an article to the Black Star photo agency on black millionaire businessmen in Atlanta.

Sepia magazine, which was similar to Look magazine but aimed at a black readership, liked the idea and assigned a writer to meet Rutledge in Atlanta.

The writer was John Howard Griffin. "At that time I had no idea of his background or what he'd been up to," Rutledge said.

What Griffin, who was white, had been up to was traveling the South disguised as a black man.

His skin darkened by medication and makeup, he planned to do a series of articles on his experiences for Sepia, followed by a book.

Sepia's publication of Griffin's articles with Rutledge's photos beginning in early 1960 — under the title "Journey Into Shame" — started a new chapter in the lives of the two men.

Griffin was besieged with interview requests; he went on television with Dave Garroway, Mike Wallace, and others.

Rutledge was summoned to a meeting in New York.

Rutledge left Black Star for the Home Mission Board in 1966 and embarked on a career



MEMORABLE COLLABORATION — The late John Howard Griffin (left) and photographer Don Rutledge pose during their work together in December 1959 on Griffin's book "Black Like Me," which still sells 50,000 copies a year. Total sales now exceed 10 million in 15 languages. (BP special photo)

photographing missions.

He moved to the Foreign Mission Board in 1980 and worked in 142 countries before his retirement last year.

Countless people have testified to him about the impact the book had in shaping their attitudes about racism.

Today Rutledge makes his home in Midlothian, Va. He appreciates the strides that have been made toward racial equality.

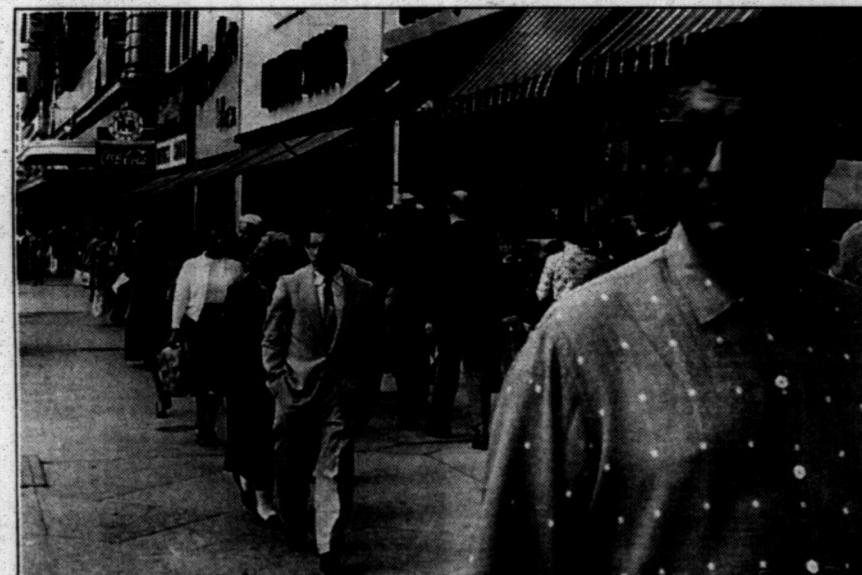
"We've got a lot of progress to make yet, but we're a lot further along than we were during that time," he said.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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AVE KF VB UVJU
EBCDEQBUV UVB
AECPT, LOU VB UVJU
LBPKBGBUV UVJU NBFOF
KF UVB FEZ EX HET?
FBDEZT NEVZ
XKGB: XKGB

Clue: D equals C
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James Two Twenty-six.



SNAPPING HISTORY — John Howard Griffin (right, forefront) strolls a downtown New Orleans street in December 1959 in this "Black Like Me" photograph by legendary Baptist missions photographer Don Rutledge.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

I can't stand people who "talk the talk" but don't walk daily with God. Should I even try to relate to them?

The Bible tells us Jesus was critical of such people but nevertheless loved them because he understood they were spiritual children — still growing and learning. There is a lost and dying world desperate to find the peace, love, and hope you have found in your daily walk with God. Don't remove yourself from these people; on the contrary, stay among them so they can see in you the more excellent way to spiritual maturity. That's important because a poor walk with God is often the fault of poor role models and leaders. Your involvement with them is crucial, because you can be sure there is plenty going on to keep them confused and restless on the other side. You can be a source of empowerment. Encourage and reinforce these immature Christians, who need help in reaching the level of spirituality that you have achieved. If you do this, you will undoubtedly discover many other

strong Christians who will stand with you in this task.

Is it wrong to pray specifically for money to pay overdue medical bills, school loans, etc.?

We can bring anything before God in prayer, but you must also realize there may be concrete actions required of you to address the situation in which you find yourself. As you continue to pray about this, be honest with yourself: was your financial predicament brought on by crisis or unexpected emergency — or was it simply the result of irresponsibility on your part? Be aware of your unmet needs and what is happening around you as you pray and work through the difficult period. Talk with a Christian financial advisor on how to better manage your budget. In a culture where many people get financially overextended under the pressures of materialism and an "I can have it all" mentality, we must learn to make spiritually-wise financial decisions. If you have children, it's extremely important that you model Christian behavior in this important area of life.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.